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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/616,247	07/14/2000	Dennis A. Carson	30448.80USD2	6658

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LISA A. HAILE, PH.D.
GRAY CARY WARE AND FREIDENRICH LLP
4365 EXECUTIVE DRIVE
SUITE 1600
SAN DIEGO, CA 92121

EXAMINER

DUFFY, PATRICIA ANN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1645

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/616,247

Applicant(s)

CARSON ET AL.

Examiner

Patricia A. Duffy

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 18, 19, 22-24 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 18, 19, 22-24 and 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8-2-05 has been entered.

Claims 10, 18, 19, 22, 23 24 and 32 are pending and under examination.

The examiner of this office action has changed. Please address all future correspondence to Exr. Patricia A. Duffy, Art Unit 1645.

The previous rejection of record under 35 USC 103 is withdrawn in view of the new grounds of rejection set forth below.

Sequence Requirements

This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.821-1.825 for the reason(s) set forth below. The specification does not provide identify the recited sequences by reference to a particular sequence identifier as required by 37 CFR 1.821(d). Correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claims 22, 23 and 24 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

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Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 22 requires a polynucleotide sequence encoding the peptide consisting of SEQ ID NO:4. There is no evidence of record that this particular peptide is conserved in the genera as claimed and therefore dependent claim broadens the scope of invention as to include changes to SEQ ID NO:4. As to claim 23 and 24, the claims do not properly further limit the product from which they depend. The claims must limit the product. Redefining the claim as a composition does not properly further limit the product.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one

skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a new matter rejection.

The claims recite a composition comprising a nucleic acid vector and an immunomodulatory compound. While the specification teaches the administration of a composition comprising a protein in combination with an immunomodulatory compound, neither the specification nor the claims (1-17) as originally filed contemplate a composition comprising a nucleic acid vector and an immunomodulatory compound or tumor necrosis factor beta in particular. The teachings for the nucleic acid compositions are limited at page 18 to "For administration, nucleotide vaccines of the invention may be composed in a carrier such as saline or, less desirably, may be administered with a delivery vehicle, such as a liposome or colloidal particles. Methods for preparation and use of such delivery vehicles will be well-known to, or may be readily ascertained by, those of ordinary skill in the art." This issue is best resolved by Applicants pointing to the specification by page and line number where explicit written description support for the nucleic acid compositions can be found.

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention for reasons made of record in paragraph 6 of the Office Action mailed 12-19-01.

The claims are not enabled for DNA vaccines. The rejection was improperly dropped in the final office action of 8-25-04 because the intended use of a nucleic acid composition according to the specification is DNA vaccination and Applicants reinserted the term "composition" in the claims and as such the amendment of 3-1-04 did not properly obviate this rejection.

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Claims 10, 18, 19, 22-24 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As to claim 10, and dependent claims 18, 19, 22-24 and 32, the independent claim 10 recites "a bacterial dnaJ peptide" and "a" means "any" as such the metes and bounds of the peptide is indefinite. This issue may be resolved by amending the claim to recite "the bacterial dnaJp1 peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4".

As to claim 32, and every claim dependent thereon (18, 19, 23-24), the claim recites the non-traditional phrase "containing a" polynucleotide of claim 10. The claim is indefinite because the metes and bounds of "containing a" is not defined by law, the specification or the claims. Further, the claim recites "a" polynucleotide meaning "any", and therefore lacks proper antecedent basis in claim 10.

Status of the Claims

All claims stand rejected.

Conclusion

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patricia A. Duffy whose telephone number is 571-272-

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0855. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 6:30 am - 6:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynette Smith can be reached on 571-272-0864.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Patricia A. Duffy

Patricia A. Duffy, Ph.D.

Primary Examiner

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